



# NW KAWS Chapters

## Kansas Alliance for Wetlands and Streams

# Happenings

WEBSITE – [WWW.KAWS.ORG](http://WWW.KAWS.ORG)

### Our Purpose:

The Chapter serves as a clearinghouse for wetlands and riparian areas information and activities, promotes educational opportunities with a variety of targeted audiences, and facilitates project implementation for wetland and riparian area projects within the participating counties.

### Our Mission:

To ensure the future of wetlands, streams, and their adjacent riparian areas as an integral part of our Kansas heritage and landscape.

### Our Vision:

A public that is well informed and involved in activities that foster the protection, enhancement, and establishment of wetlands and riparian areas in Kansas.

Membership is free and open to any interested individual, organization or agency interested in wetland and riparian area conservation.

For more information on KAWS and its activities please contact:

#### Tim Christian

KAWS State Coordinator  
P.O. Box 236  
McPherson, KS 67460-0236  
(620) 241-6921, (620) 245-9618 (fax)  
[tchristian@kaws.org](mailto:tchristian@kaws.org)

#### Chris Berens

KAWS Chapter Coordinator  
190 N Franklin  
Colby, KS 67701  
(785) 462-3367, (785) 462-7993 (fax)  
[cberens@kaws.org](mailto:cberens@kaws.org)

## January NW Chapters Meeting Review

### NW KAWS Coordinator's Report

#### Website and Documents – [www.kaws.org](http://www.kaws.org)

KAWS website is regularly updated. Please visit the website to view these recent additions that were discussed at the chapter meetings.

**KAWS BOD Update** – The next KAWS Board of Directors meeting will be held March 6<sup>th</sup>, in Topeka. If you're interested in attending please contact Chris and he can provide you the meeting location and agenda when those become available.

**WRAPS update** — Chris provided a brief update of the statewide process that KAWS applied for demonstration project dollars in 14 different WRAPS areas through coordination with the WRAPS sponsors. A recommended funding amount has been supplied to the Natural Resources Sub-cabinet and approved. At the current reduced rate, KAWS will either have to eliminate planned projects or staff. This will be determined at our next Board meeting.

A new website for WRAPS is up and running, please check it out at [www.kswraps.org](http://www.kswraps.org)

**Web Service Update** – An update on the KAWS web based mapping service was provided. Additional training was held on December 14 in Hutchinson and January 4 in Fort Scott. There will be one more opportunity to learn more about the site at the WRAPS Conference on the morning of January 17, 2007. DASC will be supplying the presentation and will provide answers to all your questions. The KDHE TMDL layer has been added as well as a new land cover layer and many of the Glacial Hills projects. A video helper is being added to help new users figure out how to utilize the site's tools. This can be a valuable tool to help with those wetland and stream projects. Click [here](#) to check it out for yourself or copy and paste this link in to your web browser.

<http://maps.kansasgis.org/kaws/map.cfm>

**Dakota Hills Chapter  
Steering Committee**

Stacie Minson- KSU  
Patti Winters- District Mng  
Neil Jednoralski- Smoky Hill Saline BAC  
Matt Smith- KDWP

**Prairie Wetlands Chapter  
Steering Committee**

Duane Cheney - Western Prairie RC&D  
Andy Burr - NRCS  
Ross Sloan - FSA  
Matt Smith- KDWP

**Solomon Valley Chapter  
Steering Committee**

Terri Nuzum - District Mng.  
Tonya Pruett- District Mng.  
Darla Juhl - Solomon Valley RC&D

**FOR QUICK ACCESS TO YOUR  
CHAPTER'S INFORMATION**

Dakota Hills Minutes pg. 3

Solomon Valley Minutes pg. 4

Prairie Wetlands Minutes pg. 5

Please consider reading each chapter's minutes to see what is going on in the surrounding chapters.

**Upcoming Chapter  
meetings, activities, and  
events**

UPCOMING EVENTS  
[KAWS Calendar of Activities](#)

February 17, Burn Workshop Lincoln, KS.

March 6, KAWS BOD Meeting, Topeka

March 12, WRAPS Meeting in Norton and Jennings

**NW Chapters Coordinator Report (cont. from page 1)**

**KAWS Grants – Current status and grant applications.**

**KDHE** – grant funding was approved and project dollars have been allocated to projects. Several projects have already been completed with KDHE grant funding.

**WIG** – KAWS did receive a Watershed Improvement Grant from EPA to expand on the work that was done under the RGI grant. The “Save Time and Money” publication will be printed for partners to use and special educational workshops will be held in the Delaware and Fall River watersheds. KAWS is using the Fecal Coliform Bacteria working group to help lead the process. To see the “Save Time and Money” publication click [here](#). We will have printed copies for partners outside those targeted watersheds.

**EPA** – Currently grant status is on hold. KAWS is working towards getting some resolution with this grant. Currently only one project in NW Chapters was under this grant and the project is partnering with EQIP and WHIP and will be allowed to continue as planned.

**PLJV**– application has been sent to PLJV for 2007 Capacity Grant funds. KAWS has received this grant in previous years and will continue to build upon the capacity building that has been accomplished in past years within the PLJV area of Kansas.

**KAWS Project Application/Cost Share Contract System**

The new KAWS online cost share system is being set up so that other groups and organizations can utilize it. Plans are to have it provide the necessary reports for grants to include project expenditures and load reduction information. A presentation on the system was provided at the WRAPS conference in Wichita on January 17. If your organization or group is interested in checking out or utilizing the new system please contact Chris for more information.

**Playa Lake Video** – The video is now available for you to watch online: <http://www.myyoutdoortv.com/show/playalakes/index.html>. If you would like a copy of the video in DVD or VHS format please request a copy from Chris.

**Landowner Incentive Program** – Chris provided information about Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks', Landowner Incentive Program. Under the program, KDWP will receive \$500,000 and match \$167,000 to provide private landowners with financial and technical support to implement projects that benefit at-risk species in the Shortgrass Prairie Conservation Region and the Central Mixed Grass Prairie Conservation Region identified in the agency's Wildlife Action Plan. At-risk species to benefit from habitat enhancement and restoration work include lesser prairie chicken, ferruginous hawk, northern pintail, black tern, whooping cranes, green toad, and Topeka shiner. If you are interested in participating or learning more about LIP contact Chris at 785-462-3367 or [chrisb@wp.state.ks.us](mailto:chrisb@wp.state.ks.us).

## DAKOTA HILLS CHAPTER

The meeting was held USDA Service Center in Ellsworth, 10 people in attendance.

### Partner Updates

**Central Prairie RC&D** – Dan Curtis provided some information on constructed wetland or rock-plant filter septic systems the RC&D has been working on in the Chapter area. For more information on using wetland or rock-plant filter septic systems please contact Dan at Central Prairie RC&D in Great Bend.

**Burn Workshop** - Matt Smith provided information on a Burn Workshop that Lincoln County Pheasant Forever is holding on Feb. 17 in Lincoln. For more information or to RSVP for the workshop contact Lincoln County Conservation District.

**Traveling Solar Pump** – Ellsworth extension agent Brent Goss discussed that they are working on a traveling demonstration solar pump that would be provided to producers that are interested in trying a solar pump for providing livestock water supply. If you are interested in this project please contact Brent Goss at the Ellsworth Co. Extension Office.

**Kansas Rural Center** – Troy Schroeder provided update on KRC in the chapter area and is currently working with several landowners on the River Friendly Farm Plans. For more information on the KRC visit [www.kansasruralcenter.org](http://www.kansasruralcenter.org).

### WRAPS

**Smoky Hill/Big Creek WRAPS** has applied for funding for several demonstration projects to be completed within the watershed. For more information contact Stacie Minson.

**Smoky Hill River above Cedar Bluff.** – Several town hall meetings were held throughout the watershed with good attendance being recorded at each meeting. Meeting attendees provided a list of resource concerns for the watershed and potential solutions to the concerns. Survey data and resource concerns from each meeting are still being compiled. For those interested in more information on this WRAPS contact Carolyn Nichols at the Osborne County Conservation District.

### Project Updates Discussed

**KSU Foundation** has submitted a proposal to fence out an existing pond and provide an alternate water source for livestock. The well has been completed and pond fencing will be started in the spring.

**Feldkamp** – This alternate water supply project will fence out an existing pond and provide an alternate water supply in Lincoln County. Fencing has been completed however the gravity feed water supply will not work and landowner is looking at other pond supply options. Patty Winters will work with Mr. Feldkamp on getting another option picked out and implemented.

**South Bend Gun Club** – Wetland creation project is completed. Good numbers of waterfowl have been reported using this newly created wetland.

**Bradford** – The Bradford project has been completed in Ellsworth County.

The following projects in the Dakota Hills Chapter still need to have contracts submitted:

**Loder Point** wetland development in Ellsworth County

**Nuss** streambank stabilization in Russell County

If you need help getting the contracts started please contact Chris and he will work on getting you hooked up on the online cost share system.

### NEXT DAKOTA HILLS CHAPTER MEETING

Next meeting will be scheduled after March 6<sup>th</sup> KAWS BOD meeting. Tentative plans are for April 12<sup>th</sup>.

## SOLOMON VALLEY CHAPTER

The meeting was held at the USDA Service Center in Phillipsburg with 6 people in attendance.

### Partner Updates

#### **WRAPS on Solomon River above Waconda**

Several town hall meetings were held throughout the watershed with good attendance being recorded at each meeting. Meeting attendees provided a list of resource concerns for the watershed and potential solutions to the concerns. Survey data and resource concerns from each meeting are still being compiled. For those interested in more information on this WRAPS contact Carolyn Nichols at the Osborne County Conservation District.

**Prairie Dog WRAPS** – Twila Dizmang, Norton County Conservation District provided an update on the Prairie Dog WRAPS. Town Hall meetings were held in Colby and Lenora with around 35 people attending each meeting. Two additional meetings are planned for March 12 in Norton and possibly Jennings. More information on the meetings will be provided as plans are finalized. If you would like additional information on the Prairie Dog WRAPS please contact Christa Mulder at the Norton County Conservation District 785-877-2623.

**Jamestown Project** – Rob Unruh provided an update via email on the Phase I project. Rob stated that the Gun Club dam elevation increase work has been completed and additional berm, ditches, and drainage canals in Gun Club marsh is planned for completion by Aug. 07. Under the current project 520 acres of land have been purchased with an additional 104 acres to be purchased in early 2007. Rob stated that grassland enhancement and restoration is scheduled to begin with a control burn of 900 acres in 2007. KAWS was presented with a framed artwork on behalf of KDWP and DU at the October board meeting. KAWS has donated the artwork to be placed at the Jamestown Wildlife Area Office.

KDWP and Ducks Unlimited have requested that KAWS again support the Jamestown Wildlife Area, Wetland Restoration and Acquisition Phase II application for NAWCA funding. The project was given final approval for \$20,000 to be split in 2 payments during a 2-year time frame.

**KS WHIP** – Several Conservation Districts have partnered with KDWP and Pheasants Forever to provide funding for wildlife habitat projects. Contact your local conservation district for more information on this WHIP program. If you are a conservation district manager and are interested in developing this type of program in your county contact your local KDWP biologist.

### Projects Discussed

**Campbell Stream Stabilization** – This project is a continuation of a stream stabilization project that is requiring an additional weir to help further reduce erosion. The project has been approved based on NRCS recommendation, plans and estimated cost. KAWS will cost share 70% of the additional weir.

**Worcester Rock Crossing** – This project discussion was about the crossing being used by vehicles as well as livestock. Other rock crossing projects completed by districts in the past have held up to vehicle use. The project has been approved for funding when funds are available.

**Warner** – This spring development, livestock water supply, and fencing project was discussed by the meeting attendees. The project received good discussion based on the availability of rural water on site with considerable cost for the landowner on a yearly basis. The chapter approved the project and has referred it to be reviewed by the KAWS BOD and PMT at the March meeting.

The following projects in the Solomon Valley Chapter still need to have contracts submitted:

**Jones** – Rock Crossing

**Jansonious** – Livestock water supply

**Dorman** – Riparian plantings on Streambank stabilization project continued from CSIMS.

If you need help getting the contracts started please contact Chris and he will work on getting you hooked up on the online cost system.

### **NEXT SOLOMON VALLEY MEETING**

Next meeting will be scheduled after March 6<sup>th</sup> KAWS BOD meeting. Tentative plans are for April 11th.

## Prairie Wetlands Chapter

The meeting was held at the Thomas County Office Complex in Colby with 5 people in attendance.

### Partner Updates

#### **WRAPS on Solomon River above Waconda**

Several town hall meetings were held throughout the watershed with good attendance being recorded at each meeting. Meeting attendees provided a list of resource concerns for the watershed and potential solutions to the concerns. Survey data and resource concerns from each meeting are still being compiled. For those interested in more information on this WRAPS contact Carolyn Nichols at the Osborne County Conservation District.

**Prairie Dog WRAPS** – Chapter members discussed the driving assessment tours they helped with and also the town hall meetings that were held in Colby and Lenora with around 35 people attending each meeting. Two additional meetings are planned for March 12 in Norton and possibly Jennings. More information on the meetings will be provided as plans are finalized. If you would like additional information on the Prairie Dog WRAPS please contact Christa Mulder at the Norton County Conservation District 785-877-2623.

**Playa Wetland Protection** – Several CP23a and Farmable Wetland projects throughout the chapter area were discussed at the meeting. Many wetland determinations have now been completed and several projects are in varying stages of enrollment.

Ben Duell local landowner was guest speaker on the PLJV playa radio show. Ben discussed his enrolling his playa in the WRP and playa lake conservation in general. A big thank you goes out to Ben for providing his perspective on playa lake conservation. To hear Ben's radio interview click on the following link:

[http://www.publicbroadcasting.net/hppr/RegionalProgramming.mediaplayer?STATION\\_NAME=hppr&MEDIA\\_ID=559284&MEDIA\\_EXTENSION=mp3&MODULE=RegionalProgramming](http://www.publicbroadcasting.net/hppr/RegionalProgramming.mediaplayer?STATION_NAME=hppr&MEDIA_ID=559284&MEDIA_EXTENSION=mp3&MODULE=RegionalProgramming)

**Playa Lake Habitat Improvement Program** – KDWP and PLJV provided limited funding for this program in Nov. 06. Chris stated that he was working with a couple landowners that are enrolling playas and associated buffers in this program. After the chapter meeting contracts for 65 acres were approved for funding by KDWP.

### Prairie Wetlands Chapter Projects Needing Contracts

**Blaesi Shallow Water Area** – Chris has been working with Mr. Blaesi on getting the cost share contract written. This project is also partnered with the Water For Wildlife grant. If you would like more information on Water For Wildlife please contact Chris.

**Lamb Trust Playa** – Chris has been working with the landowner on this project and we are still awaiting the official enrollment in CP23a so that we can continue with the KAWS project. Partners for Wildlife Program of the US Fish and Wildlife Service will also partner on this project when a CP23a contract is secured.

### NEXT PRAIRIE WETLANDS CHAPTER MEETING

Next meeting will be scheduled after March 6<sup>th</sup> KAWS BOD meeting. Tentative plans are for April 10<sup>th</sup>.